

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A metering device, comprising:
 - an actuator unit comprising:
 - a housing with an actuator introduced into the housing, and
 - a hydraulic compensation element able to be filled under pressure with a fluid, which is connected to the actuator, wherein
 - a first end of the actuator is provided with a first end cap,
 - a stop is arranged in the form of a seat on the housing, which is opposite the first end cap and defines a stop position for the first end cap,
 - the stop maintains a distance between a sealing element of a valve unit and the end cap, with the distance being smaller than the stroke distance effected by the actuator so that the stroke of the actuator via the end cap is sufficient to engage the end cap with the sealing element to open the valve, and wherein
 - with a movement of the first end cap in the direction of the hydraulic compensation element the first end cap hits the stop and this movement is blocked.
2. **(Previously Presented)** A metering device according to claim 1, wherein the first end cap comprises a plunger pointing towards the valve unit.
3. **(Previously Presented)** A metering device according to claim 1, wherein the first end cap is frustoconical, with its lateral surface featuring steps.
4. **(Previously Presented)** A metering device according to claim 1, wherein the stop is embodied as a taper on the internal diameter of the housing.

5. (Previously Presented) A metering device according to claim 4, wherein the first end cap features two ears, on the trans-axial plane of which the end cap has an external dimension which is greater than the minimum internal dimension of the stop.

6. (Previously Presented) A metering device according to claim 1, wherein the actuator is provided with a second end cap which is connected to the hydraulic compensation element.

7. (Previously Presented) A metering device according to claim 6, wherein the second end cap comprises a hole for connecting leads.

8. (Previously Presented) A metering device according to claim 1, wherein the actuator is pre-tensioned by means of a tubular spring.

9. (Previously Presented) A metering device according to claim 1, wherein the hydraulic compensation element is rigid in relation to forces applied for short periods and gives way with a thermally induced change of length of the actuator.

10. (Previously Presented) A metering device according to claim 1, wherein the hydraulic compensation element comprises:

- at least one hydraulic chamber,
- a housing,
- a piston which can be pushed into the housing,
- Storage volume which are sealed externally by means of membranes,

wherein the piston or the housing is connected to the second end cap of the actuator.

11. (Previously Presented) A metering device according to claim 10, wherein the hydraulic compensation element features a number of hydraulic chambers for improved rigidity.

12. (Previously Presented) A metering device according to claim 10, wherein the hydraulic chambers are embodied between axially pressure surfaces of the housing and of the piston.

13. (Previously Presented) A metering device according to claim 10, wherein the piston or the housing comprises axial holes which connect the storage volumes with the hydraulic chambers, in which case the openings of the holes are provided with non-return valves.

14. (Previously Presented) A metering device according to claim 10, wherein, in the hydraulic compensation element of the piston and the housing each comprise different coefficients of thermal expansion.

15. (Previously Presented) A metering device according to claim 1, wherein the hydraulic compensation element is provided with an equalization store which allows for thermal changes of volume in the fluid in the hydraulic compensation element.

16. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a metering device according to claim 1, in which the first end cap is moved past the stop and as a result of a subsequent turn, the end cap and the stop lie opposite each other such that, with a movement of the end cap in the direction of the hydraulic compensation element the end cap hits the stop and this movement is blocked.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A metering device, comprising:

- an actuator unit comprising
- a housing with an actuator introduced into the housing, and
- a hydraulic compensation element able to be filled under pressure with a fluid,

which is connected to the actuator, wherein

- a first end of the actuator is provided with a first end cap,
- a stop is arranged in the form of a seat on the housing, which is opposite the first end cap and defines a stop position for the first end cap,
- the stop maintains a distance between a sealing element of a valve unit and the end cap, with the distance being smaller than the stroke distance effected by the actuator so that the stroke of the actuator via the end cap is sufficient to engage the end cap with the sealing element to open the valve,
- with a movement of the first end cap in the direction of the hydraulic compensation element the first end cap hits the stop and this movement is blocked, and
- the first end cap is frustoconical, with its lateral surface featuring steps, and comprises a plunger pointing towards the valve unit.

18. **(Previously Presented)** A metering device according to claim 17, wherein the stop is embodied as a taper on the internal diameter of the housing.

19. **(Previously Presented)** A metering device according to claim 18, wherein the first end cap features two ears, on the trans-axial plane of which the end cap has an external dimension which is greater than the minimum internal dimension of the stop.

20. **(Previously Presented)** A metering device according to claim 17, wherein the actuator is provided with a second end cap which is connected to the hydraulic compensation element.